

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10

L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

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UNCLAS USUN 5867

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, UNGA, UNCTAD, ECOSOC

SUBJECT: 30TH UNGA - AGENDA ITEM 55: UNCTAD

1. SUMMARY: OPENING STATEMENT BY UNCTAD SYG COREA
EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF UNCTAD IV ACHIEVING CONCRETE
RESULTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELDS OF COMMODITIES, TRADE
IN MANUFACTURE AND MONEY AND FINANCE PROBLEMS. HE URGED
THAT IN THE UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE, UNCTAD BE MAINTAINED
AS A NEEDED INSTRUMENT OF NEGOTIATION. REPS OF NIGERIA,
COLOMBIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND CHINA - MADE STATEMENTS. DE-
BATE ON THIS ITEM IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE THROUGH NOVEMBER
12. END SUMMARY.

2. ITEM WAS INTRODUCED BY UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL COREA
ON NOVEMBER 10. (HIS SPEECH WAS AN EXPANSION OF BRIEFER
REMARKS TO THE RESUMED 59TH ECOSOC). COREA DESCRIBED RESULTS
OF THE SIXTH SPECIAL SESSION AS ESTABLISHING THEMES WHICH
UNCTAD SUBSEQUENTLY HAS ATTEMPTED TO DEVELOP. HE SAID THAT
THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION HAD ALSO PROVIDED IMPETUS TO
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UNCTAD'S WORK BY GIVING A BROAD POLITICAL THRUST TO THE IS-

SUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT UNCTAD IV - BY IDENTIFYING THESE ISSUES AND ESTABLISHING PRIORITIES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT RESULT OF THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, HE SAID, WAS AN AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE, AND UNCTAD IV WOULD BE THE TESTING GROUND OF THIS SPIRIT. COREA NOTED THAT THE PLANNING FOR UNCTAD IV HAD BEEN CHANGED TO PROVIDE A MORE EFFECTIVE FORMAT FOR NEGOTIATIONS: THE LENGTH OF THE SESSION HAD BEEN SHORTENED; IT WOULD HAVE A MORE LIMITED AGENDA; AND IT WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A TDB NEGOTIATING SESSION IN MARCH.

3. TURNING TO THE AGENDA FOR UNCTAD IV, COREA EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CONFERENCE MIGHT PRODUCE CONCRETE RESULTS IN THE AREA OF COMMODITIES. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THOSE WHO CALLED FOR MINIMUM INTERFERENCE IN COMMODITY MARKETS AND THOSE WHO CALLED FOR TIGHTER REGULATION. HE SAID THAT THE CORE OF UNCTAD'S INTEGRATED PROGRAM WAS MARKET INTERVENTION THROUGH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STOCKS OF COMMODITIES. IT PROPOSES THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OVER-ALL SYSTEM OF OBJECTIVES BUT DOES NOT PRECLUDE CASE-BY-CASE CONSIDERATION. ALSO CRITICAL TO THE INTEGRATED PROGRAM, HE SAID, WAS THE SETTING UP OF A COMMON FINANCING FUND. FINALLY, IN THIS CONTEXT, HE DESCRIBED COMPENSATORY FINANCING AS A RESIDUAL BACK-UP BUT NOT CENTRAL TO THE OVER-ALL PROGRAM.

4. WITH REGARD TO TRADE IN MANUFACTURES, COREA SAID THAT THE CONFERENCE SHOULD CONSIDER A NEW, COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY NOT LIMITED TO THE SIMPLE ISSUE OF MARKET ACCESS. HE DESCRIBED UNCTAD'S RESPONSIBILITIES AS GOING BEYOND THE MTN AND CALLED FOR CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH UNIDO.

5. COREA SAID THAT THE MAJOR MONEY AND FINANCE ISSUES BEFORE THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE DEBT PROBLEMS, EXCEPTIONAL BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS PROBLEMS, LONG-TERM FLOWS OF RESOURCES TO DEVELOPING WORLD (TO INCLUDE POSSIBLY AUTOMATICITY), AND REFORM OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY SYSTEM (WHICH CURRENTLY IS STALLED).

6. OTHER ITEMS BEFORE THE CONFERENCE WILL INCLUDE THE UNCLASSIFIED

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TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY (CODE OF CONDUCT, REVISION OF THE PATENT SYSTEM, A PROGRAM TO REDUCE LDC TECHNOLOGICAL DEPENDENCY), PROBLEMS OF SPECIAL COUNTRY GROUPS (LEAST DEVELOPED, LAND-LOCKED, AND ISLAND DEVELOPING), TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES OF DIFFERENT ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SYSTEMS, AND COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

7. FINALLY, COREA SAID THAT CONFERENCE AGENDA ITEM ON INSTI-

TUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR UNCTAD HAD TAKEN ON A NEW SIGNIFICANCE IN VIEW OF THE GENERAL UN RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE. HE SAID THAT THE UN NEEDED TO HAVE AN INSTRUMENT OF NEGOTIATION AND THAT UNCTAD FILLED THAT ROLE.

8. THE COREA SPEECH WAS FOLLOWED BY STATEMENTS BY REPS OF NIGERIA, COLOMBIA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND CHINA. THE NIGERIAN REP DECRINED THE LACK OF DC POLITICAL WILL TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE TRADE PROBLEMS (MARKET ACCESS, TARIFF, AND NTB BARRIERS), REAFFIRMED NIGERIA'S SUPPORT OF THE INTEGRATED COMMODITY PROGRAM, CALLED ON UNCTAD IV BOTH TO REVIEW THE PROGRESS AT MTN AND TO CONSIDER AN ITEM ON "REVIEW AND APPRAISAL," AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE CENTRAL FUNCTION OF UNCTAD WOULD BE PRESERVED IN THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE. THE COLOMBIAN REP REGRETTED THE LACK OF SUCCESS OF UNCTAD IN ITS EFFORTS THUS FAR AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT, FOLLOWING THE IMPETUS ACHIEVED AT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION, UNCTAD IV WOULD NOT BE ANOTHER DISAPPOINTMENT. THE CZECH REP DESCRIBED UNCTAD'S ROLE AS CONSOLIDATING PEACE AND SECURITY AND BRINGING ABOUT THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER. HE CALLED ON UNCTAD IV TO FOCUS ON ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC SYSTEMS, AND SUPPORTED THE STRENGTHENING OF UNCTAD WITHIN THE UN SYSTEM. THE CHINESE REP SAID THAT THE PROBLEMS FACING THE THIRD WORLD WERE PRICE, MARKET ACCESS, AND EXPORT EARNINGS (THE RESULTS OF IMPERIALISM AND, IN PARTICULAR, SUPER-POWER MONOPOLY AND EXPLOITATION), REGRETTED THAT THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION AND WATERED DOWN LDC PROPOSALS ON AN INTEGRATED PROGRAM AND INDEXATION, AND CITED THE EXPERIENCE OF THE ARAB WORLD AS EVIDENCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PRODUCER ASSOCIATIONS IN IMPROVING LDC TERMS OF TRADE.

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